

PROPOSAL - Merrill Lake North

1,430 Acres

Conservation Values

- **Diverse habitats including old growth, lava beds, forested shoreline, riparian/wetland and waterfalls**
- **ESA listed species include: northern spotted owl, steelhead and Chinook**
- **Connects existing public lands**

Recreational Values

- **Wildlife viewing**
- **Fly fishing**
- **Hunting (elk, deer)**



Merrill Lake North

Agency	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Estimated Acres	1,430
Existing Uses	Commercial timber production, hunting and fishing. Equestrian trails are present. This parcel is connected to Department of Natural Resource Conservation Area.
Threats	Recreational development and timber harvesting
Intended Uses	Fish and wildlife conservation; the unique habitats on site and their proximity to other protected areas provide an opportunity to support a wide range of rare and important species. Public recreation (hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding).
Project Description	This acquisition would protect a unique diversity of habitats on the site including old growth and mature growth forests, lava beds, falls and lake shoreline. This area represents important transition to winter range habitat for elk and deer, and the unique habitats support bats and rare amphibians. Kalama River historically supported bull trout, current presence is unknown. Conservation of this site will assure habitat connectivity between Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt St Helens National Volcanic Monument, Department of Natural Resources lands and PacifiCorp mitigation lands. Federally listed species include northern spotted owl, bull trout, steelhead and Chinook.
Partners/Supporters	Coordinated with the Rocky Mt Elk Foundation, Columbia Land Trust and WA DNR. Supporters include: Lower Columbia Fly Fishers, Clark/Skamania Fly Fishers, Cowlitz County Commissioners, Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.



